

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 SSC-01 /060 W  
-----052649 280340Z /20

R 272052Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9348  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, FR, PGOV  
SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLED IN WAKE OF SENATORIAL ELECTIONS

1. THREE MEMBERS RESIGN: AS A RESULT OF THE SEPTEMBER 25 SENATORIAL ELECTIONS, THREE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS SEPTEMBER 26 IN ORDER TO TAKE THEIR SEATS AT THE LUXEMBOURG PALACE. A FOURTH, RENE MONORY (MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND SMALL BUSINESS), ELECTED TO STAY IN THE GOVERNMENT, THUS ALLOWING HIS SUPPLEANT TO ENTER THE SENATE. THE NET RESULT IS A GOVERNMENT OF 15 MINISTERS (AS BEFORE) AND 23 SECRETARIES OF STATE (VICE 24) WITH APPROXIMATELY THE SAME POLITICAL BALANCE: 11 "PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY", 10 RPR, 10 PR, 5 CENTRISTS AND 2 RADICALS. ALTHOUGH SOME OBSERVERS HAVE CALLED THE NEW MEMBERS MORE POLITICALLY-ORIENTED THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS, SUCH ANALYSIS IS AN EXERCISE IN SPLITTING HAIRS, PARTICULARLY

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LARLY WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE POLITICALLY ACTIVE JEAN-PIERRE FOURCADE. IN REALITY, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO IMPORTANT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS; THE CHANGES WERE MADE IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO HAVE THE NEW MEN IN PLACE BEFORE THE FALL ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINS.

2. THE NEW MEMBERS: THE GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE AFFECTED

TED ONE MINISTER AND TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE:

- MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT JEAN-PIERRE FOURCADE (PR) WAS REPLACED BY FERNAND ICART (BIO SEPTEL). ICART (PR) MOVES INTO HIS FIRST GOVERNMENT POST, LEAVING HIS CURRENT JOB AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S INFLUENTIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE. FOURCADE, ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE "CLUBS PERSPECTIVES ET REALITES", WILL NOW BE FREE TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THE LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT.
- CHRISTIAN PONCELET (RPR), SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PARLIAMENT, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY ANDRE BORD, A POPULAR GAULLIST OF LONG STANDING IN THE PARTY AND A MEMBER OF THE RPR POLITICAL COUNCIL. HE IS WELL KNOWN IN PARLIAMENTARY CIRCLES.
- ANDRE BORD HAD SERVED SINCE 1972 AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EX-SERVICEMEN (ANCIENS COMBATTANTS), A POSITION NOW FILLED BY JEAN-JACQUES BEUCLER, WHOSE FORMER POST AS SECRETARY OF STATE AT DEFENSE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.
- PIERRE-CHRISTIAN TAITTINGER (PR) HAS BEEN REPLACED AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU (PR), THREE TIMES IN

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THE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN 1973 AND 1975 AND CURRENTLY FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN. DENIAU ALSO SERVED ON THE COMMON MARKET COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS FROM 1967 TO 1973.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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